

TO: Department of State (FOR: Commerce, 100)

804.101 1-2950

FROM: BUDAPEST 126 29 January 1950

1 Enclosure

REF:

SUBJECT: HUNGARIAN GIFT PACKAGES FOR DOLLARS

There is enclosed a summary of a circular distributed in Hungary by IKKA, the foreign trade section of IBUSZ, the Hungarian travel bureau. The circular is intended for Hungarians who have relatives or friends in the United States, and describes the best means for obtaining gift packages from America. It reveals, also, another means by which Hungary obtains dollars.

It is now possible for American relatives and friends to purchase Hungarian products for delivery to their relatives and friends in Hungary upon payment of dollars in the United States. These items include bicycles, radios and "thermos" type food and beverage containers. The rate of exchange at which these articles are offered for sale is approximately 25 forints for one dollar, (rather than 11.65 to one, the official rate), if the Hungarian prices may be accepted as any criteria. The friction radio, model 449, for example, is sold in Hungary at a fixed price of 1,200 forints (approximately \$160.00 at the official rate of exchange) while other items are comparable.

ACTION REQUESTED:

For information of appropriate agencies.

For the Minister:

Enclosure:

Summary of "IKKA" circular

Gerald A. Mekma
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